

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W  
-----061731Z 084553 /53

R 061505Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: OPENING TO THE RIGHT?

1. A WIDESPREAD MOOD OF DEPRESSION PREVAILED AMONG THE 300 DELEGATES TO THE JUNE 4-5 FDP CONVENTION IN OFFENBACH CALLED TO ELECT A NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE STATE OF HESSE IN THE WAKE OF FDP SETBACKS IN THE COMMUNAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 20 (FRANKFURT 2162) AND TO PREPARE THE PARTY FOR WHAT MANY BELIEVE WILL BE A FIGHT FOR PARLIAMENTARY SURVIVAL IN THE STATE-WIDE ELECTIONS IN THE FALL OF 1978.

2. AS ANTICIPATED, WOLFGANG MISCHNICK RELINQUISHED HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY IN HESSE TO THE STATE'S INTERIOR MINISTER EKKEHARD GRIES, AGED 40. THE CONVENTION'S ONLY AND SOMEWHAT SIGNIFICANT SUPRISE HOWEVER WAS THAT GRIES' CONTENDER FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION, BUNDESTAG DEPUTY KLAUS-JUERGEN HOFFIE, COLLECTED 130 VOTES COMPARED TO 161 FOR GRIES. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CLOSE OUTCOME IS THAT HOFFIE IS KNOWN TO BE MORE THAN NORMALLY DISPOSED TOWARD A POSSIBLE COALITION WITH THE CDU AND ENGINEERED THE CDU/FDP COALITION FORMED IN DARMSTADT-DIEBURG AFTER THE MARCH 20, 1977 COMMUNAL ELECTION WHICH SAW SHARP SETBACKS FOR THE SPD AS WELL

AND THE FDP. THE MOOD OF DELEGATES WAS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY A MOTION INTRODUCED BUT LATER WITHDRAWN CALLING ON THE FDP TO PULL OUT OF THE WIESBADEN COALITION AND TOLERATE AND SPD MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN HESSE.

3. IN KEEPING WITH THE PREVAILING MOOD NONE OF THE FREE DEMOCRATS AT OFFENBACH THE PAST WEEKEND WOULD RULE OUT A COALITION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AFTER THE STATE-WIDE ELECTIONS IN THE FALL OF 1978 ALTHOUGH ALL PROFESSED THEIR CONTINUING LOYALTY TO THE CURRENT COALITION WITH THE SPD UNTIL THAT TIME. (EVEN HEINZ HERBERT KARRY, FDP NATIONAL AND HESSIAN TREASURER AND HESSIAN DEPUTY MINISTER-PRESIDENT, WITHDREW BY OMISSION FROM HIS PREVIOUS HARD STAND AGAINST COALITION WITH A CDU UNDER ALFRED DREGGER'S LEADERSHIP.) THESE EXPRESSIONS OF FIDELITY TO THE COALITION PARTNER FOR THE NEXT 16 MONTHS ARE HOWEVER OF NO SIGNIFICANCE SINCE THE CDU LED BY DREGGER HAS NO SERIOUS INTENTION OF BRINGING DOWN THE CURRENT COALITION IN WIESBADEN BEFORE THE ELECTION PREFERRING TO KEEP UP A CONSTANT AND MOUNTING DRUMFIRE INTENDED TO REACH ITS HIGH POINT JUST BEFORE ELECTION DAY WITH A SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE WHEN IT WILL GAIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AT THE TIME. LEHMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY LEADERS, ELECTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OPENING TO THE RIGHT?  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, FDP, (MISCHNICK, WOLFGANG), (GRIES, EKKEHARD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f784b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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